

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2005-217-WS - ORDER NO. 2005-627
NOVEMBER 10, 2005

IN RE: Application of Utilities Services of South)	ORDER GRANTING
Carolina, Inc. for Adjustment of Rates and)	REQUEST FOR LOCAL
Charges and Modifications to Certain Terms)	PUBLIC HEARING
and Conditions for the Provision of Water and)	
Sewer Services.)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on the request for a “night hearing” (i.e., local public hearing) to be scheduled in the present docket.¹ On July 19, 2005, Utilities Services of South Carolina, Inc. (“USSC”, the “Applicant”, or the “Company”) filed an Application with the Commission requesting approval of a new schedule of rates and charges and modifications to terms and conditions for the Company’s water and sewer services provided to USSC’s customers in South Carolina. Following public notice of USSC’s Application, a request from a York County resident, dated September 14, 2005, was received by the Office of Regulatory Staff (“ORS”) asking that an evening hearing be scheduled with respect to USSC’s Application, specifically requesting that this local

¹ To more accurately describe so-called “night hearings”, this Order will refer to them as local public hearings. The Commission periodically receives requests to hold public hearings in the general locale of water and wastewater facilities that are the subject of proposed rate increases. These hearings are held for the purpose of taking local public witness testimony at a location and time of day that is conducive to increased participation by affected customers. Those customers may otherwise not be able to attend the hearing in the PSC’s Columbia facilities where the applicant is given the opportunity to put on their case in chief.

public hearing be held in York County, South Carolina. This request was received by the Commission on September 21, 2005, having been forwarded to the Commission from USSC's counsel of the law office of Willoughby & Hoefer, P.A. According to USSC's counsel, the request for such a hearing was delivered to his office by the ORS on September 16, 2005.

Upon consideration of the request, the Commission finds that a local public hearing in this docket should be scheduled and held in the evening in the York County area. This hearing shall be scheduled in addition to the public hearing scheduled in this matter for Thursday, December 15, 2005, to be held at 10:30 a.m. in the Commission's hearing room, Synergy Business Park, 101 Executive Center Drive, Columbia, South Carolina. A local public hearing will allow interested customers of USSC who cannot attend the hearing in Columbia to appear and present testimony and evidence relevant to USSC's Application. It is being scheduled to provide a local forum and convenient time for customers of USSC and other interested persons not already parties to the proceeding. Parties of record in this docket who have filed Petitions to Intervene and who seek to cross-examine witnesses of USSC will present their testimony and exhibits at the public hearing scheduled for December 15, 2005. Further, USSC will present the Company's witnesses and testimony and exhibits at the hearing scheduled to be held before the Commission in Columbia, South Carolina.

Upon consideration of the request for a local public hearing in York County, the Commission makes the following findings:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. A hearing on the Applicant's request for an adjustment in rates and charges and modifications to certain terms and conditions for the provision of water and sewer service is scheduled to be held in the Commission's hearing room located at 101 Executive Center Drive, Columbia, South Carolina on Thursday, December 15, 2005, at 10:30 a.m.

2. The Applicant serves customers in certain areas located in South Carolina.

3. As evidenced by the request in this proceeding, public interest exists in the proceedings concerning the Applicant's request for an adjustment in rates and charges.

4. A local public hearing on the Application to be held in the evening in York County, South Carolina would provide a convenient forum for the customers of the Applicant to provide evidence related to the Application to the Commission.

Based upon the above Findings of Fact, the Commission concludes as follows:

CONCLUSIONS

1. Based upon customer interest in this proceeding, the Commission concludes that significant interest in the instant docket has been exhibited by a customer who could be affected by the pending rate case Application.

2. The Commission concludes that a local public hearing held in the evening in York County, South Carolina would allow interested customers to appear before the Commission to present evidence concerning the pending rate case Application.

3. The Commission concludes that a local public hearing held in the evening in York County, South Carolina would serve the public interest as such a public hearing

would provide the customers affected by the rate Application a convenient forum in terms of location and time to appear before the Commission to present evidence related to the pending rate case Application.

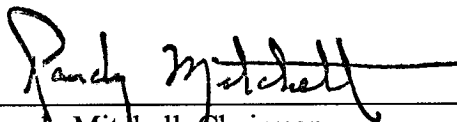
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. A local public hearing in the pending rate case Application filed by Utilities Services of South Carolina, Inc. shall be held in the evening in York County, South Carolina.

2. The Commission Staff is directed to find a suitable location and date for the local public hearing and shall provide notice of the hearing to the parties in this docket and to the customers affected by the Application.

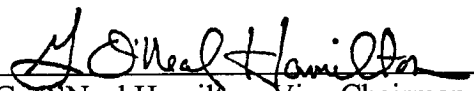
3. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:



G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)